has further pledged that efforts will continue to save the remaining pre-Islamic artifacts in Afghanistan. To this end, the DG has appealed to dealers, collaborators and Member States to fight against the traffic in Afghan cultural properties and drawn attention to the colligation of State Parties under the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and traffic in ownership of cultural property. UNESCO has also opened a Special Fund for Safeguarding of Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage.

Advisory Committee to improve functioning of Passport Offices

4467. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an advisory Committee consisting of eminent local personalities to improve functioning of the passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The working of the passport offices is already being closely monitored by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs.

Indonesia's support to India's Peace move

4468. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 10th January, 2001 captioned "Indonesia support India's peace move in Jammu & Kashmir"; and

(b) if so, facts of the matter reported therein and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The Government is aware of the news item captioned "Indonesia supports India's peace move in J-K" appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 12th January, 2001.

(b) The Indonesian President addressed a Joint Press Conference with PM during PM's visit to Indonesia on 11th January, 2001. Answering a question, the President said that Indonesia support peaceful resolution of the problem through existing laws and treaties.

Anti-India Propaganda

4469. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the anti-India propaganda being carried out by some foreign newspapers for the last four years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government at the diplomatic level in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) The Government has, from time to time, seen some ill-informed, misleading or factually incorrect articles about India in foreign newspapers.

(b) Indian diplomatic and consular missions abroad are in constant touch with important newspapers to correct any misperceptions about India and to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of such articles.